

**What is claimed is:**

1. A method for providing data synchronization through an information service, comprising:
  - 5 maintaining by the information service a database associated with a user, the database being accessible to a plurality of devices associated with the user, the plurality of devices including data sources, respectively;
  - 10 according a selected one of the plurality of devices a special status in response to a request for modifying a data source in the selected device;
  - 15 allowing the plurality of devices to download information from the database to revise data elements in the respective data sources thereof; and
  - allowing, based on the special status, the selected device to upload information to the information to update the database.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the selected device is provided with a token indicative of the special status.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein the token has a predetermined bit pattern.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the selected device includes a personal information manager (PIM).
- 20 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the selected device includes personal digital assistant (PDA).
- 25 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the selected device includes a computer.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the data elements includes

appointment information.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the data elements includes contact information.

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9. A method for synchronizing a data object in at least first and second devices associated with a user through an information service, comprising:

maintaining by the information service a database associated with the user, the database being accessible to the first and second devices, the first device including therein a

10 first version of the data object, the database containing a second version of the data object;

receiving from the first device a request for modifying the data object therein;

according a special status to the first device;

determining whether the first version of the data object and the second version of the data object are different versions;

15 if the first and second versions of the data object are different versions, the method further comprising the following (a) and (b):

(a) providing the second version of the data object to the first device; and

(b) allowing modification of the second version of the data object in the first device;

receiving from the first device, which is accorded the special status, information to

20 update the second version of the data object in the database; and

allowing the second device, which is not accorded the special status, to receive information from the database to revise the data object therein.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein the data object is associated with an indicator  
25 indicating a version of the data object.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein the indicator includes a version number.

12. The method of claim 9 wherein the first device is provided with a token indicative of the special status.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein the token has a predetermined bit pattern.

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14. The method of claim 9 wherein at least one of the first and second devices includes a PIM.

10       15. The method of claim 9 wherein at least one of the first and second devices includes a PDA.

16. The method of claim 9 wherein at least one of the first and second devices includes a computer.

15       17. The method of claim 9 wherein the data object includes appointment information.

18. The method of claim 9 wherein the data object includes contact information.

19. A system for providing data synchronization through an information service,  
20       comprising:

      a database associated with a user, the database being maintained by the information service and accessible to a plurality of devices associated with the user, the plurality of devices including data sources, respectively, a selected one of the plurality of devices being accorded a special status in response to a request for modifying a data source in the selected  
25       device; and

      a mechanism for allowing the plurality of devices to download information from the database to revise data elements in the respective data sources thereof, and allowing, based

on the special status, the selected device to upload information to the information management service to update the database.

20. The system of claim 19 wherein the selected device is provided with a token  
5 indicative of the special status.

21. The system of claim 20 wherein the token has a predetermined bit pattern.

22. The system of claim 19 wherein the selected device includes a PIM.

10 23. The system of claim 19 wherein the selected device includes a PDA.

24. The system of claim 19 wherein the selected device includes a computer.

15 25. The system of claim 19 wherein at least one of the data elements includes appointment information.

26. The system of claim 19 wherein at least one of the data elements includes contact information.

20 27. A system for synchronizing a data object in at least first and second devices associated with a user through an information service, comprising:

25 a database associated with the user, the database being maintained by the information service and accessible to the first and second devices, the first device including therein a first version of the data object, the database containing a second version of the data object;

an interface for receiving from the first device a request for modifying the data object therein, the first device being accorded a special status;

a processor for determining whether the first version of the data object and the second version of the data object are different versions, and performing the following (a) and (b) if the first and second versions of the data object are different versions:

- (a) providing the second version of the data object to the first device; and
- 5 (b) allowing modification of the second version of the data object in the first device;  
a mechanism for receiving from the first device, which is accorded the special status, information to update the second version of the data object in the database, the second device, which is not accorded the special status, being allowed to receive information from the database to revise the data object therein.

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28. The system of claim 27 wherein the data object is associated with an indicator indicating a version of the data object.

29. The system of claim 28 wherein the indicator includes a version number.

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30. The system of claim 27 wherein the first device is provided with a token indicative of the special status.

31. The system of claim 30 wherein the token has a predetermined bit pattern.

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32. The system of claim 27 wherein at least one of the first and second devices includes a PIM.

25 33. The system of claim 27 wherein at least one of the first and second devices includes a PDA.

34. The system of claim 27 wherein at least one of the first and second devices

includes a computer.

35. The system of claim 27 wherein the data object includes appointment information.

5           36. The system of claim 27 wherein the data object includes contact information.